

PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND).



RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 25 February 1847—*for*,

A COPY of "a LETTER from the Board of Public Works in *Ireland*, dated the 11th day of February 1847, on the Subject of PRESENTMENTS, for the period which may intervene between the present time and the carrying out the new Arrangements for Relieving the Destitute in certain Districts in *Ireland*, with MINUTE of the Board of Treasury thereon."

Whitehall Treasury Chambers, }
25 February 1847.

J. PARKER.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 25 February 1847.

From J. C. Walker, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Works, Ireland, to
C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.

Sir,

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
11 February 1847.

I AM directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to request you will draw the attention of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to the period which may intervene between the present time and the carrying out the new arrangements for relieving the destitute in certain districts in Ireland; and to state that it is also desirable that Presentment Sessions should be held, to enable the Board to continue works already commenced, but not completed.

But it would appear to be desirable that the amount of the presentments granted in each case should be limited to a sum barely sufficient to employ the destitute then on the lists in any barony, for the period of six weeks, to commence from the 20th February instant.

(signed) Jno. C. Walker,
Secretary.

4.957.

COPY TREASURY MINUTE, dated 16 February 1847.

WRITS to the Commissioners of Public Works that the relief works carried on under the 10 Vict. c. 107, should be discontinued as soon as the means of subsistence have been provided for the destitute in each neighbourhood, either under the temporary Relief Act which will shortly be passed, or by employment on any of the public or private works of improvement which are in progress or may hereafter be undertaken.

This rule may be modified in certain cases, in order to prevent the inconvenience which might arise from a work being brought abruptly to a close; and, in reference to this part of the subject, their Lordships consider that it will be sufficient for them to repeat the instruction given by them on the occasion of the termination of the relief works carried on under the preceding Act, 9 Vict. c. 1:*

"In discontinuing relief works, care should be taken to leave them, as far as possible in a serviceable state, as far as they have gone; as, for instance, a section of a road actually in progress may be completed to such an extent as will

* See p. 242 of the Relief Correspondence laid before Parliament in 1846.

will render it of some use, and will admit of its being easily carried on hereafter by a loan secured by grand jury presentment; but it must be clearly understood, that the paramount object in every case in which such works are not required for giving relief is to bring the work to an early close, and that the intention of the slight modification above adverted to is merely that this object may be carried into effect with as little sacrifice as possible of any incidental benefit that may have been expected from the works."

Acting on these principles, the Commissioners of Public Works will bring to an immediate close any work carried on under the 10 Vict. c. 107, the continuance of which is not required for either of the reasons above adverted to; and if it should be necessary to recommend for sanction a new presentment for the purpose of affording relief, it should be limited to a sum sufficient to employ the destitute until such time as the new Relief Act may be expected to come into effective operation, which period, as suggested by the Commissioners, should not in any case exceed six weeks.

In all their proceedings on this subject the Commissioners will have a careful regard to the paramount object of preventing the relief works from interfering with the ordinary cultivation of the land; and, as the season of spring labour has nearly arrived, it is desirable that some effectual steps should be taken for this purpose.

Their Lordships desire that, after the Commissioners shall have considered the several points above adverted to, and shall have communicated on the subject with the Relief Commission, they will report the course of proceeding which, with His Excellency's sanction, they propose to adopt.

Transmit a copy of this Letter and Minute to Mr. Labouchere, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant.

PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND).

A COPY of a Letter from the Board of Public Works, Ireland, respecting the Relief of the Destitute in certain Districts; &c.

(Mr. Parker.)

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25 February 1847.